

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2178

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1334

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MG, RO, US

SUBJECT: US-MONGOLIAN RELATIONS

REFS: A. STATE 063687

B. BUCHAREST 1118 (NOTAL)

1. MONGOLIAN AMBASSADOR SAVED SUBJECT OF US-MONGOLIAN RELATIONS FOR ALMOST THE VERY END OF THE HOUR-LONG CALL HIS WIFE AND HE PAID ON US MARCH 27. HE DID HAVE SOME POINTS OF SUBSTANTIVE INTEREST HOWEVER.

2. HE SAID HE HAD TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF HIS RECENT HOME LEAVE IN ULAN BATOR TO TALK WITH OFFICIALS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ABOUT THE STATE OF POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF MONGOLIAN-AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. HE WAS TOLD THAT IN PRINCIPLE THERE WERE NO OBSTACLES TO ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, THAT THE DOCUMENT PRESENTED EARLIER BY THE AMERICAN SIDE WERE STILL BEING STUDIED TO DETERMINE HOW THEY FITTED WITH MONGOLIAN LAW, AND THAT NEW YORK REMAINED THE BEST SITE FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, THERE BEING NO REASON TO SHIFT TALKS ELSEWHERE. WHEN I ASKED THE AMBASSADOR IF HE

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HAD ANY IDEA, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT

OF TIME HAD GONE BY SINCE OUR PROPOSALS HAD BEEN MADE, HOW SOON THE MONGOLIAN SIDE WOULD BE READY TO RESUME TALKS IN NEW YORK, HE SAID HE REALLY COULD NOT GIVE ANY ESTIMATE.

3. SINCE HE SEEMED DISINCLINED TO PURSUE THE QUESTION FURTHER, I LANUCHED INTO A DISCUSSION OF WRESTLING (REFTEL A). AFTER SEVERAL MINUTES ON THAT TOPIC HE CAME BACK, HOWEVER, TO THE QUESTION OF US-MONGOLIAN RELATIONS BY CITING THE FOLLOWING FACTORS WHICH HE FELT "IN HIS PERSONAL OPINION" WERE PERTINENT.

A. BECAUSE MONGOLIA HAD SUCH FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH A NUMBER OF ASIAN GOVERNMENTS, LIKE NORTH KOREA, NORTH VIETNAM AND THE PRG WHICH IN TURN HAD SO MANY PROBLEMS WITH THE UNITED STATES, MONGOLIA HAD TO GIVE A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF THOUGHT AS TO HOW IT MIGHT EXPLAIN TO THESE FRIENDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

B. GIVEN THE PRESENCE OF SO HUGE A COUNTRY AS CHINA ON ITS BORDER, A COUNTRY WHICH COULD POSE A THREAT TO MONGOLIA'S INDEPENDENCE, MONGOLIA HAD TO BE PARTICULARLY ATTENTIVE TO US-CHINESE RELATIONS.

C. GIVEN THE DESIRABILITY OF RETAINING NEW YORK AS A SITE FOR DISCUSSIONS, IT MIGHT BE WELL IF THE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS HE AND I HAD HAD WERE FOLLOWED UP BY A RENEWED AMERICAN APPROACH IN NEW YORK.

4. I ASKED THE AMBASSADOR WHY US-CHINESE RELATIONS MIGHT HAVE SUCH A BEARING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND MONGOLIA. HE SAID IT WAS SIMPLY A METTER OF PRUDENCE. WHEN YOU HAD A COUNTRY AS LARGE AND DENSELY POPULATED AS CHINA ON YOUR BORDERS, AND WHEN THAT COUNTRY WAS IMPROVING ITS RELATIONS WITH THE MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, THEN YOU HAD TO GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO ANY POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR YOUR OWN SITUATION. I TOLD THE AMBASSADOR AS FAR AS THE UNITED STATES WAS CONCERNED I WAS SURE THE ONLY PROBLEM MONGOLIA HAD TO WORRY ABOUT WAS COMPETITION IN THE WRESTLING RING.
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I THEN ASKED HIM WHETHER IN SUGGESTING A RENEWED AMERICAN APPROACH IN NEW YORK HIS PERSONAL FEELING WAS THAT THIS WOULD LEAD TO POSITIVE STEPS IN THE WHOLE QUESTION OF ESTABLISHMENT OF MONGOLIAN-AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. HE REPEATED THAT IT MADE SENSE TO CARRY ON THE DISCUSSIONS IN NEW YORK AND HE FELT A RENEWED APPROACH BY SU WOULD HAVE POSITIVE RESULTS.

5. COMMENT: I LEAVE UP TO OTHERS THE INTERPRETATION OF
THE MONGOLIAN AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS ABOUT MONGOLIA'S ASIAN
FRIENDS AND MONGOLIAN CONCERNS ABOUT US-CHINESE RELATIONS.
THE CLEAR BURDEN OF HIS MESSAGE, HOWEVER, WAS THAT DESPITE

THESE FACTORS A RENEWED EFFORT BY THE US IN NEW YORK WOULD
HELP MOVE THINGS ALONG ALTHOUGH HE WAS CAREFUL, AS INDICATED
ABOVE, TO HEDGE HIS REMARKS BY CALLING THEM "PERSONAL
OPINIONS" AND BY GIVING NO REAL SENSE OF A TIME FRAME.
FROM THIS REMOVE I WOULD THINK IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE
TESTING OUT THE MONGOLIAN AMBASSADOR'S SUGGESTION TO SEE
IF IT DOES IN SOME FASHION AFTER SOME TIME BRING ANY POSITIVE
RESULTS. I WOULD APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED OF ANY
APPROACH THAT IS MADE.
BARNES

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